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ABSTRACT

THE FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THIS DOCUMENT: Seven interactive computer programs are available to help with the study of American History. They cover the period of the 17th century up through the present day, and involve a variety of approaches to instruction. These programs were conceived and programmed by Jim Lengel, a former state social studies specialist and author of LAW IN AMERICAN HISTORY. They include: THE CASE OF PETER GOODMAN, an exercise to stimulate students' reasoning skills, drawn from the history of Plymouth colony in New England in the 1630's. Concepts of religious freedom and social control are presented in a problem-solving format; students' reasoned responses are stored and printed out for the teacher. INTOLERABLE ACTS is a tutorial designed to help the student understand the role of new British laws in the pre-revolutionary period. Students apply the laws to actual situations that are presented to them by the computer. Students' explanations of the events are printed out as a record for the teacher. THE BILL OF RIGHTS program presents the student with a series of actual cases, from throughout American history, that involve one of our Constitutional rights. The students can access the Bill of Rights through a computer data-base, and use what they find to explain each of the 20 cases. A complete printout of the student's work is provided at the end of the lesson. VIGILANTE MOCK TRIAL is a complete, computer-managed simulation of a trial from 1859 in the American west. Students form into two teams, one for prosecution and one for defense; each team interviews witnesses, puts them on the stand, and asks questions in court. The computer judges the statements of all the witnesses and comes up with a verdict at the end of the trial. This simulation takes at least two class periods to complete. CASE STUDY: BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION presents students with the facts of this landmark case and leads them through the classic case-study method: they identify the legal issues involved, relate them to the Constitution, examine precedents, and finally render an opinion. A database of relevant Constitutional phrases and precedents is available for research by the students. A complete printout of student reasoning and choices is provided to the teacher. CASE STUDY: TINKER V. DES MOINES is similar in form to the BROWN case, but involves Constitutional rights in school. A research data-base and complete printout is accessible through the computer. SEX DISCRIMINATION MOCK TRIAL is a modern case taken from a federal appeals court, and arranged as a computer simulation for two teams of students. It is similar in format to the vigilante mock trial described above. These programs are available to operate on Radio Shack Model III or IV, or on Apple II or IIe microcomputers, with or without a printer. A master disk and a backup copy containing all seven programs will be mailed first class upon receipt of a check or school purchase order for $45.00. James G. Lengel's address is RFD #1, Williamstown, VT 05679, (802) 433-6022. (Author)

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## AMERICAN HISTORY

Computer Programs by James G. Lengel

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